Falling of meteors in Gujarat

†3005. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past a meteor fell somewhere in Gujarat State;

(b) if so, the number of incidents of falling of meteors during the last five years and the extent of losses suffered or benefit achieved from their falling;

(c) the nature of such meteors and the reasons of their falling; and

(d) whether any measures are being taken to have prior information of the falling of such meteors; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A meteor fell in the Kutch area of Gujarat on 31st July, 2006 evening. The meteor broke into many pieces in the atmosphere and these pieces fell over different places in the area.

(b) In Gujarat, only two such meteor-falls have been reported during the last five years. Most of the falling meteors are small and do not cause any loss of life or property. The benefits of such meteorities are scientific in nature as they might provide some clue to the early evaluation of the solare system.

(c) Meteors are dust and rocky fragments of asteroids or comets, which interact with the earth's atmosphere as it sweeps through the space. Smaller fragments burn up in the atmosphere. Occassionally, larger rocky pieces survive atmosphere and fall on the earth.

(d) Several teams of astronomers worldwide are surveying the sky using special optical telescopes to detect and monitor the near earth objects. The relevant information is regularly made public for all intersted scientists and monitoring agencies.

Monitoring Mechanism for MPLADS

3006. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose/plan to change the Monitoring Mechanism for MPLADS works;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the new Monitoring Mechanism;

(c) the detailed reasons for change of the mechanism for monitoring the works; and

(d) whether study has been conducted that change in the mechanism for monitoring the works would be conductive to overcome the short-comings in the present system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLIMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to strengthen monitoring of MPLADS.

(b) and (c) The improvement in the monitoring mechanism is under consideration of the Government to have a comprehensive and qualitative assessment of the MPLADS works executed or under execution by the implementing agencies and to study whether various aspects such as topographical, structural, environmental, social, cultural and statutory requirements have been taken into account in the sanction and execution of MPLADS works. Change in the monitoring mechanism is being proposed from the current year by the Government. Under the new monitoring system, National Level Monitors, Agencies and Institutions would be involved for monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of this Scheme. Revised Guidelines on MPLADS inssued on 16th November, 2005 also provides for a clear role for the Government of India, State Governments, District Authorities and Implementing Agencies in monitoring the review of the Scheme.

(d) Yes, Sir. An evaluation study of MPLAD Scheme was done by the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission. The Evaluation Report submitted in January, 2002 has made specific suggestions for effective implementation and monitoring of the MPLAD Scheme to achieve better results.

Water-logging in metros due to rains

3007. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by his Ministry to stop water-logging in metropolis from just one or two rains spells;